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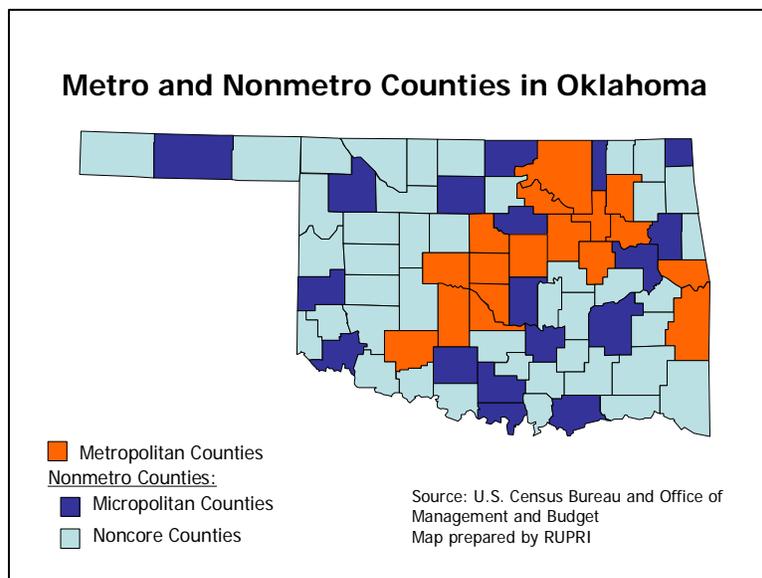
Demographic and Economic Profile

Oklahoma

Updated October 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Oklahoma

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget, 17 counties in Oklahoma are part of metropolitan areas, and 18 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan category defines counties that include an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 plus surrounding counties that are linked through commuting ties. These areas often represent important economic and trade centers in rural areas. The remaining 42 counties in Oklahoma are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 63.3 percent of Oklahoma residents live in metropolitan areas, 20.9 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 15.8 percent live in noncore areas.

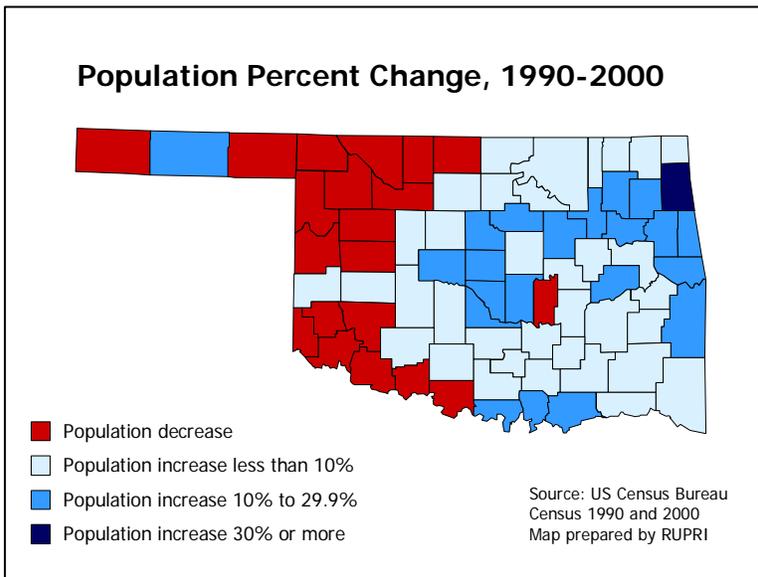


Population

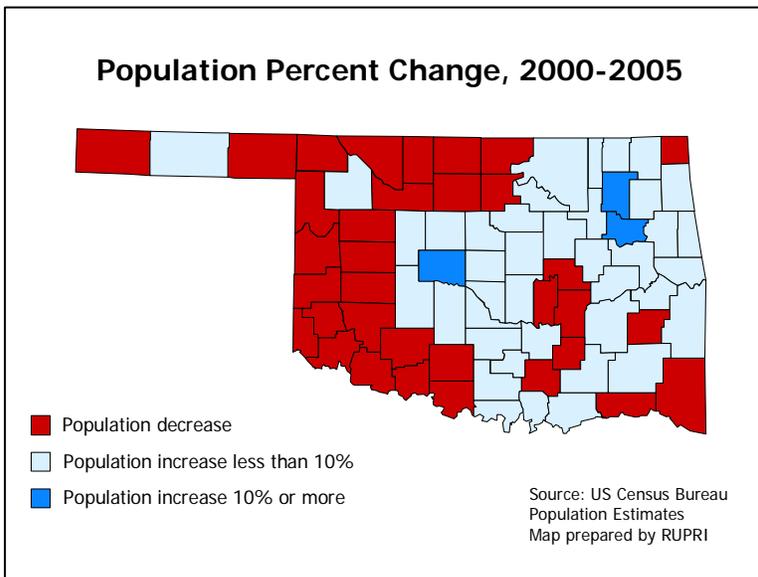
Oklahoma's population in July of 2005 was 3,547,884, up 2.8 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Oklahoma increased by 9.7 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metro areas of Oklahoma outpaced the nonmetro areas in both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Oklahoma	9.7%	2.8%
Metropolitan	12.3%	4.2%
Nonmetropolitan	5.6%	0.5%
Micropolitan	6.5%	0.8%
Noncore	4.4%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

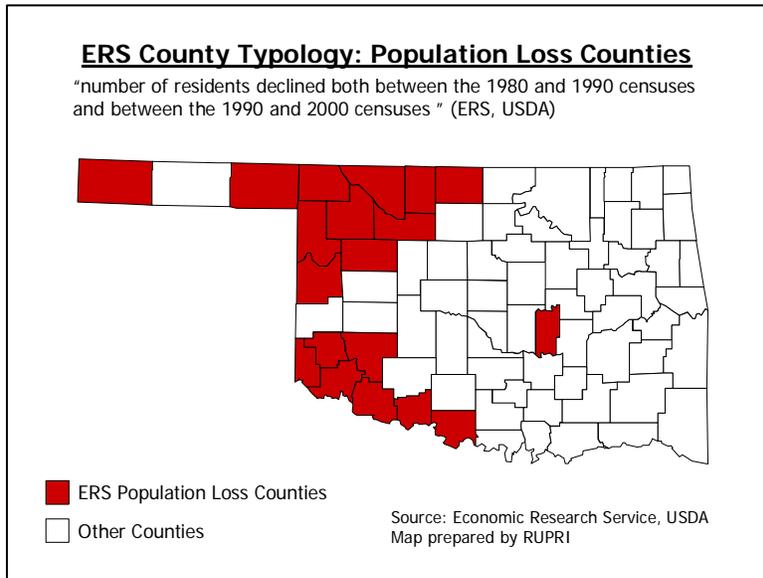


During the 1990s, 20 counties in Oklahoma lost population, all of them nonmetro. The fastest growth in this time period, though, was in Delaware County, which is a noncore county, with a population increase of 32.1 percent.



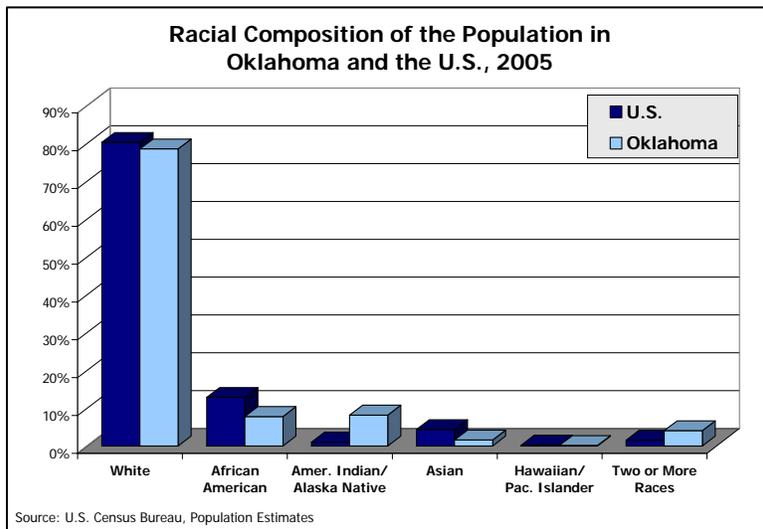
From 2000 to 2005, 34 counties in Oklahoma lost population, all but one of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time was in Rogers County in the Tulsa Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 14.3 percent.

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they lost population between 1980 and 1990, and between 1990 and 2000. In Oklahoma, 19 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.

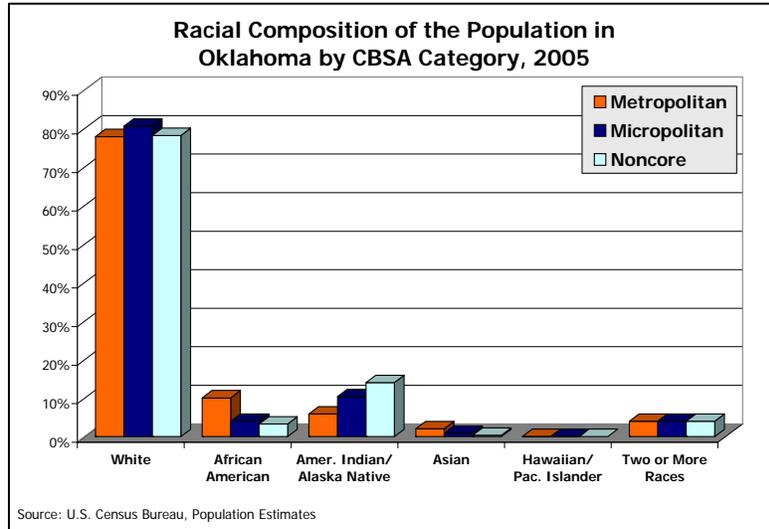


Race / Ethnicity

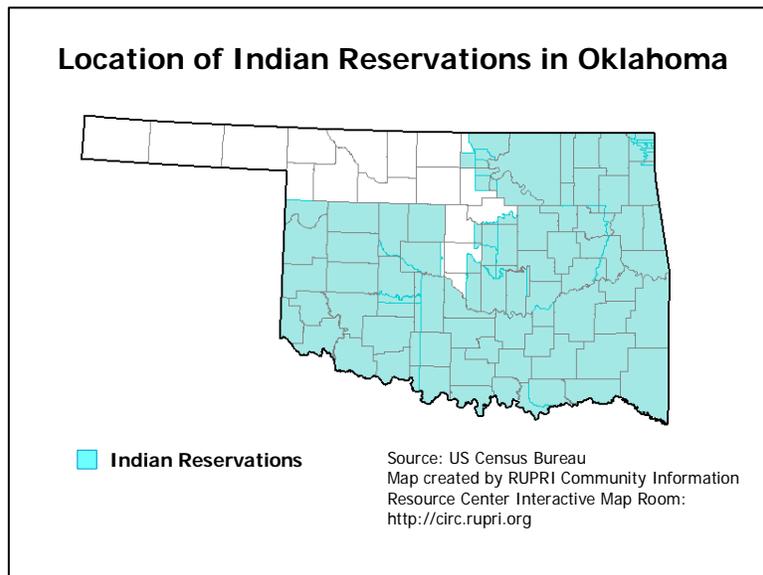
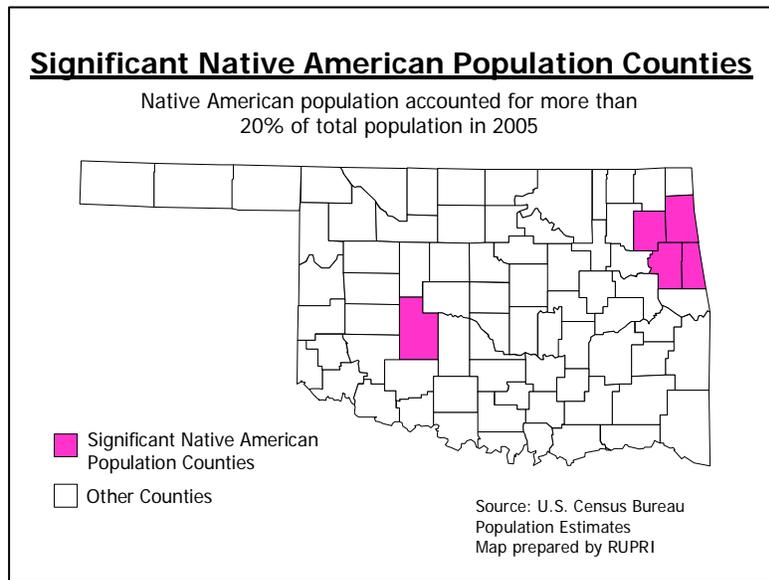
The population in Oklahoma is 78.5 percent white, 7.7 percent African American, and 8.1 percent Native American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white, 12.8 percent African American, and 1.0 percent Native American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).



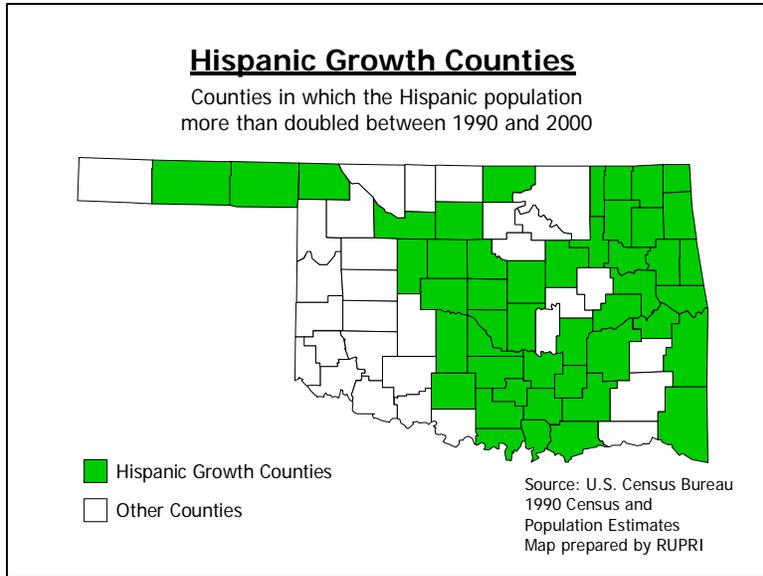
Within Oklahoma, the metropolitan population is 77.9 percent white, 10.1 percent African American, and 5.9 percent Native American. The micropolitan population is 80.6 percent white, 4.0 percent African American, and 10.4 percent Native American. The noncore population is 78.2 percent white, 3.3 percent African American, and 14.1 percent Native American.



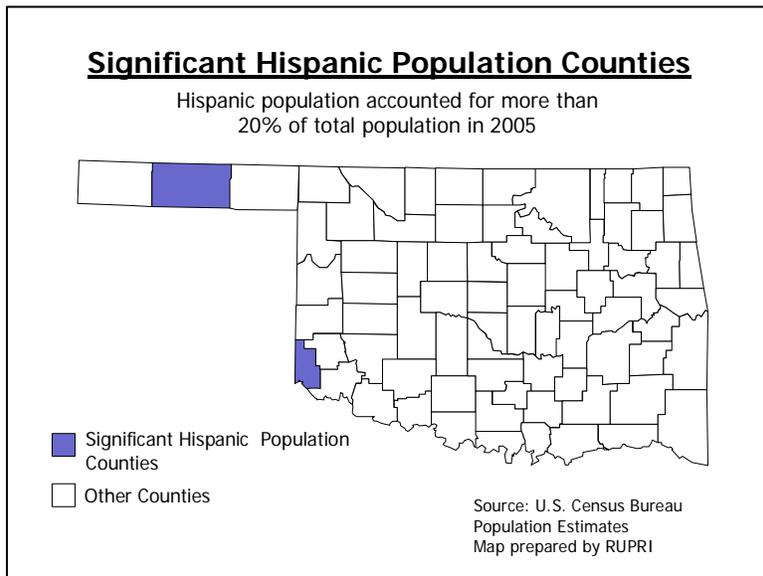
Native Americans make up a significant portion of total population (over 20 percent) in five Oklahoma counties, shown in the map to the right. The map below shows the location of Indian Reservations in Oklahoma.



People of Hispanic origin make up 6.6 percent of Oklahoma’s population, compared to 14.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Many areas have experienced a significant increase in their Hispanic populations over the past decade and a half. In Oklahoma, the Hispanic population more than doubled in 47 counties from 1990 to 2005.

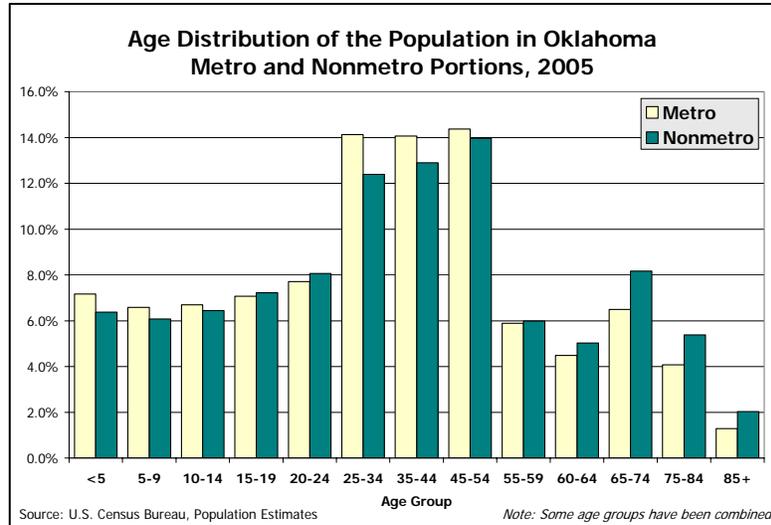


In most Oklahoma counties, the Hispanic population accounts for a small portion of total population. In only 10 Oklahoma counties does the Hispanic population account for over 10 percent of total population. In two counties, over 20 percent of the population is Hispanic: Texas County (38.2%) and Harmon County (22.6%).

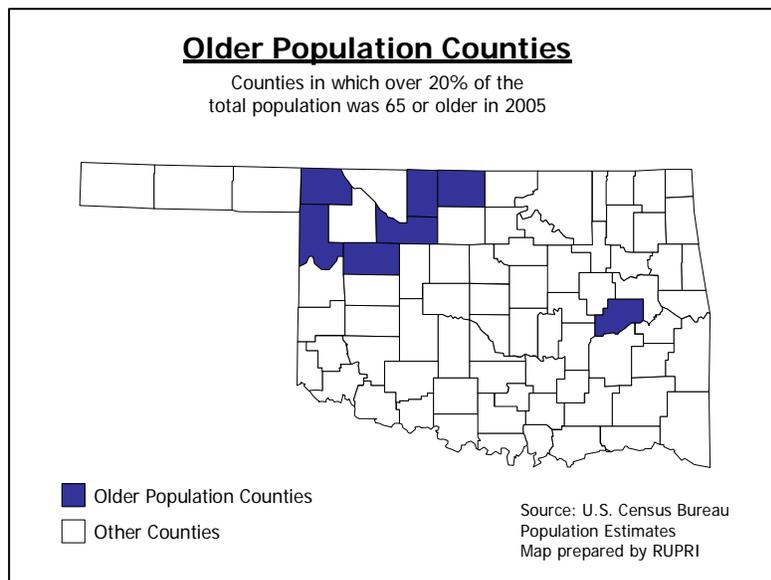


Age

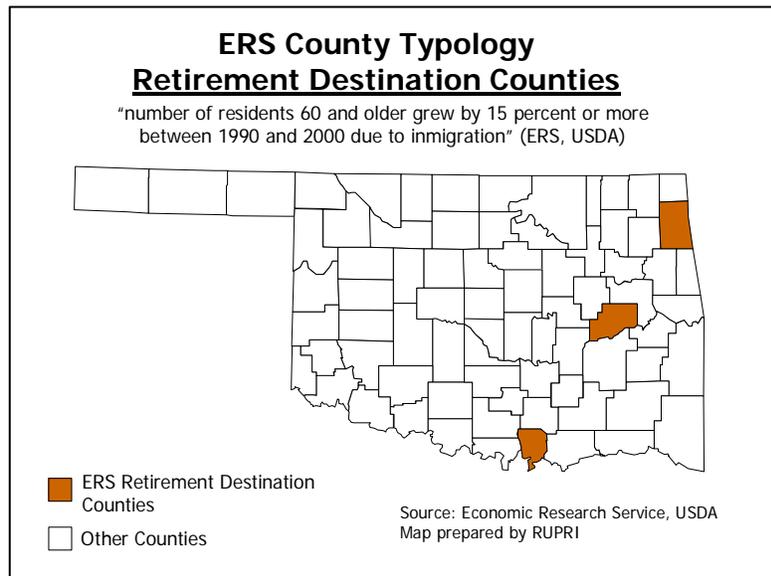
The chart to the right shows the age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Oklahoma. The percent of the population in the 25 to 44 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 65 and over is greater in the nonmetro areas.



Many rural areas experience an aging of their populations over time, in some cases due to immigration of retirees and in other cases due to outmigration of younger populations and an aging-in-place of residents. Seven Oklahoma counties have a significant portion of total population over the age of 65. These counties, all nonmetro, are shown in the map to the right.

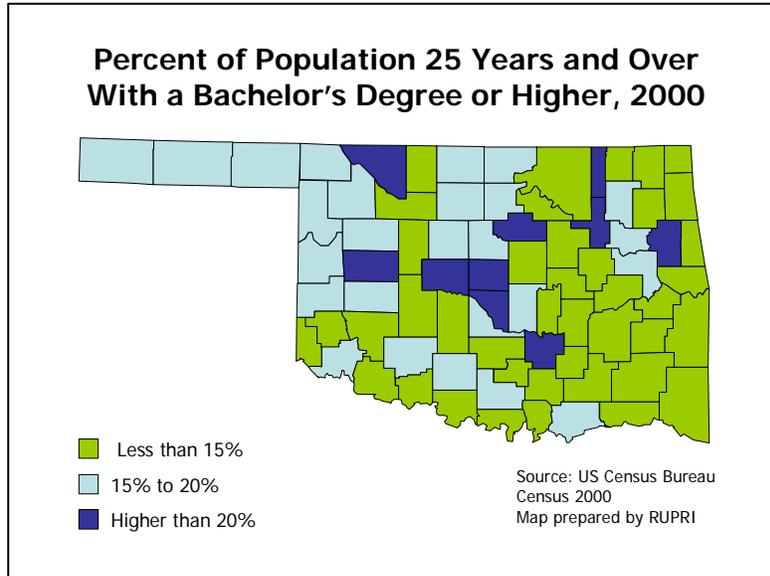


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Oklahoma, 3 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as retirement destination counties.

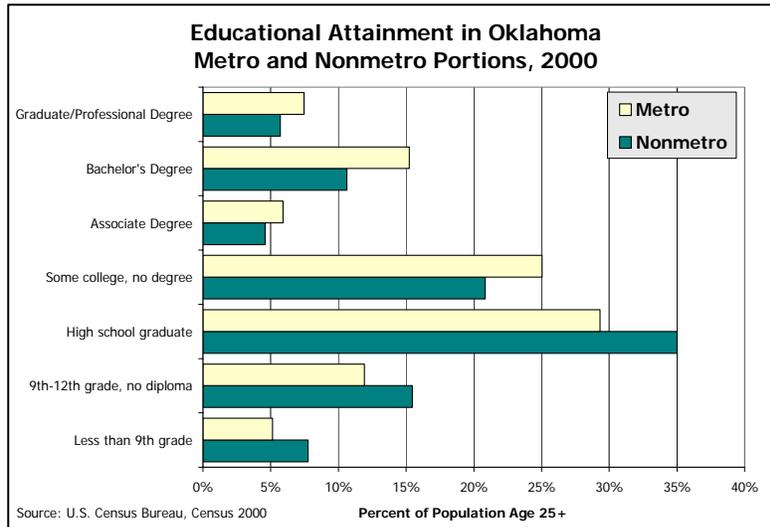


Educational Attainment

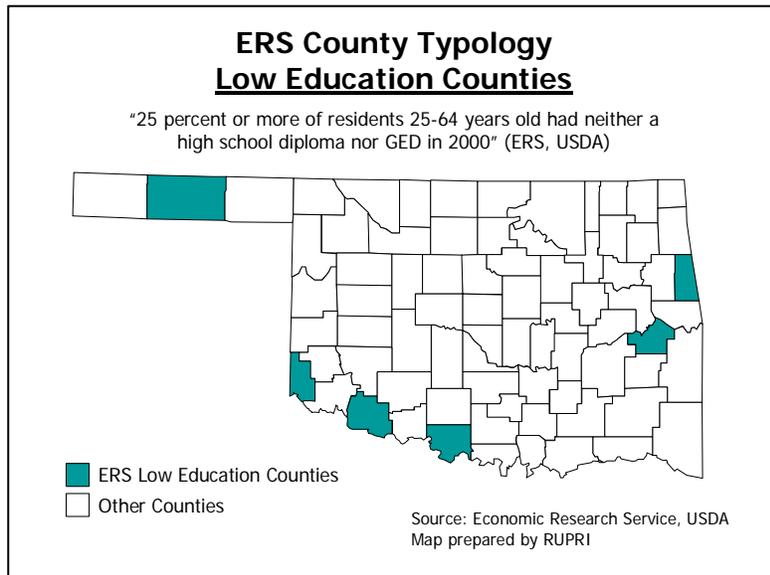
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 20.3 percent in Oklahoma. In metro areas of Oklahoma, this percentage is 22.7 percent, compared to only 16.3 percent in nonmetro areas.



The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Oklahoma's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas.

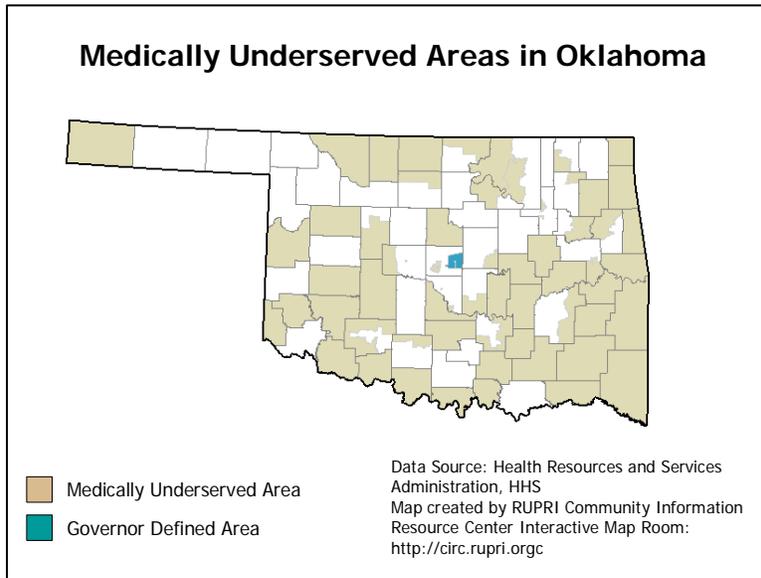


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In Oklahoma, 6 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as low education counties.

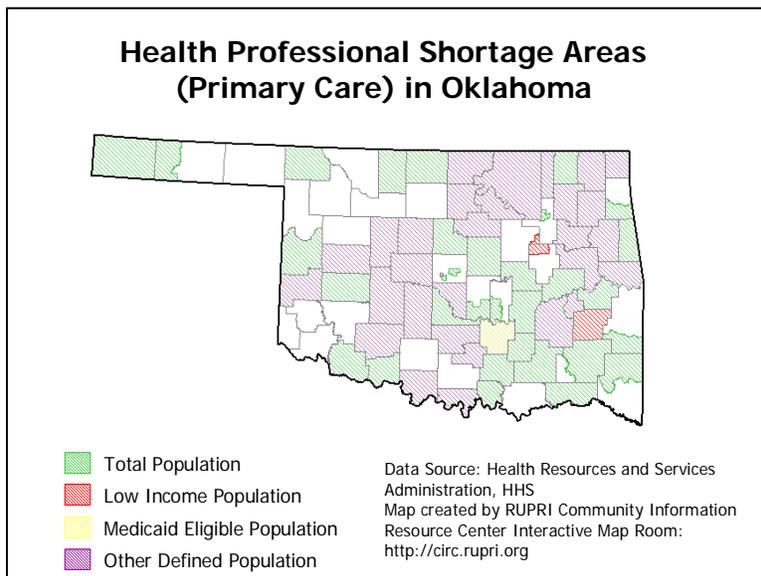


Health Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population, the infant mortality rate, the percent of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and the percent of the population age 65 and over (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Oklahoma, several areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

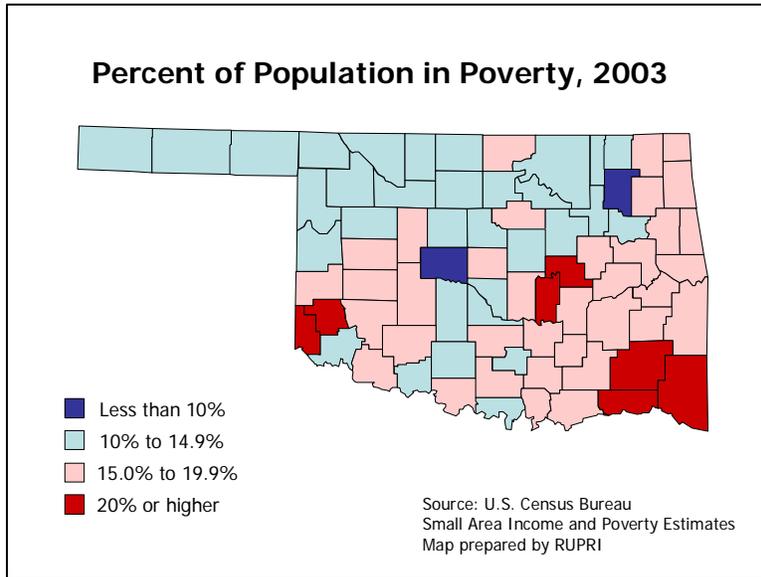


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Oklahoma, several areas in the state are designated as primary care HPSAs for the low income or other defined populations.

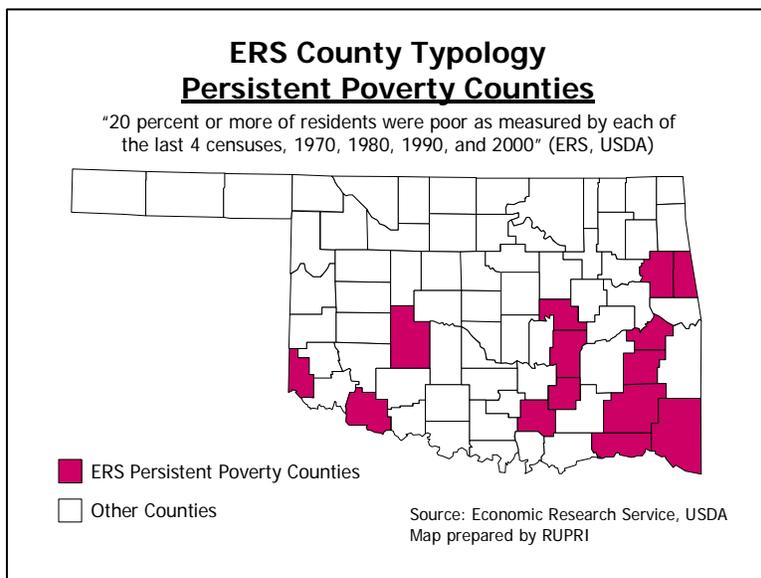


Poverty

The poverty rate in Oklahoma in 2003 was 14.6 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Oklahoma, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 9.2 percent in Canadian County to 22.5 percent in Harmon County.

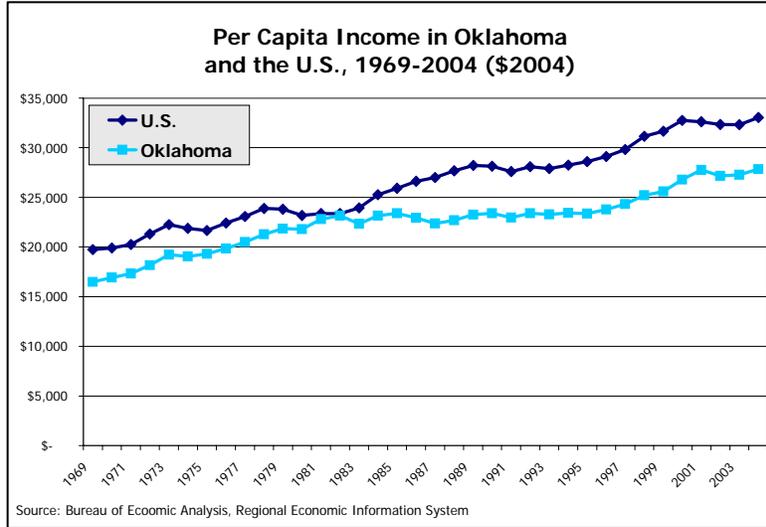


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each decennial census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and 14 are located in Oklahoma. All 14 persistent poverty counties in Oklahoma are nonmetro.

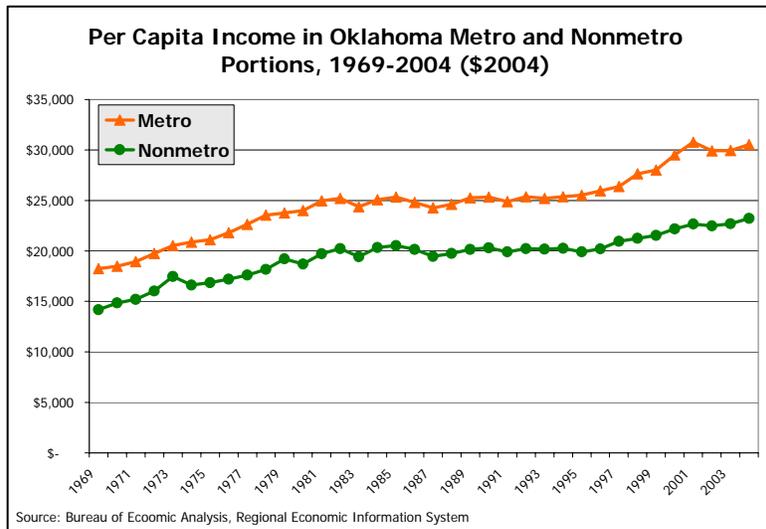


Per Capita Income

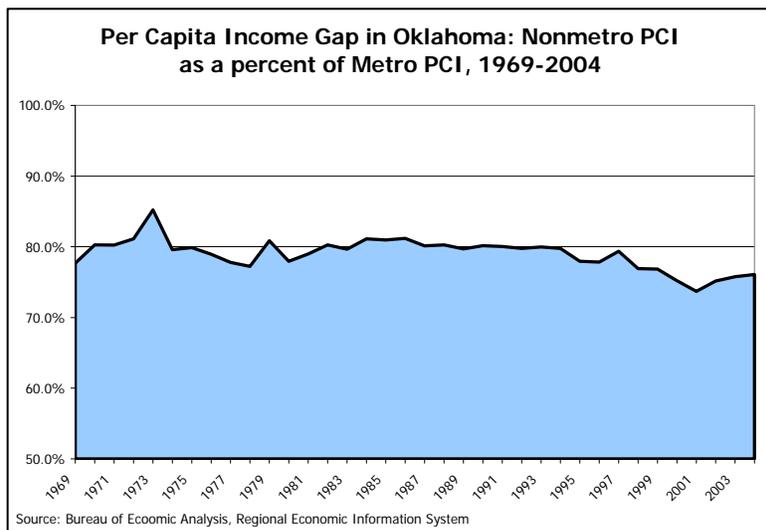
Per capita income trends in Oklahoma have followed national trends, with Oklahoma's income lagging slightly behind the national income over most of the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Oklahoma was \$27,840, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



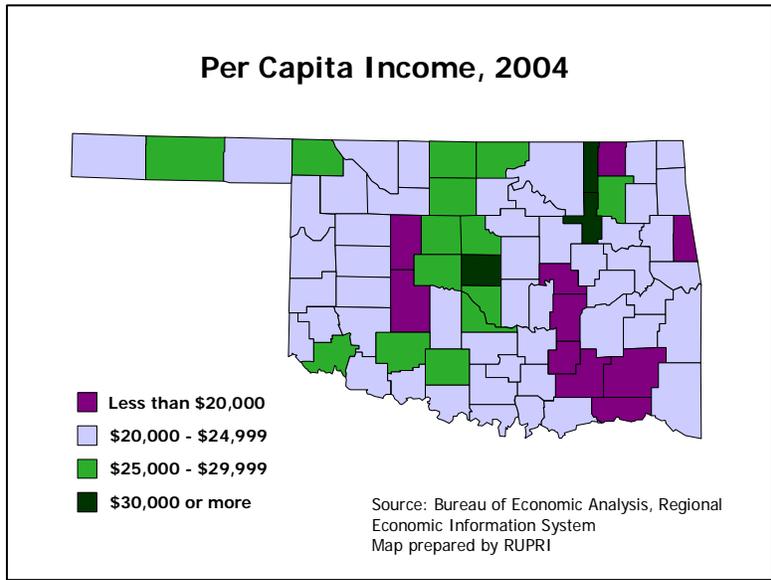
Nonmetro per capita income in Oklahoma has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$30,532, compared to \$23,223 in nonmetro areas.



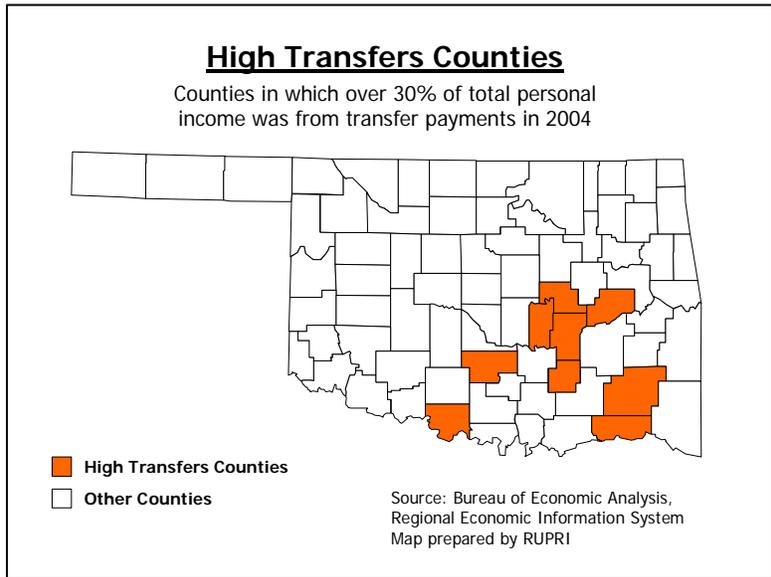
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Oklahoma, the gap was at its smallest in 1973 and at its largest in 2001. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 76.1 percent of metro per capita income.



Within Oklahoma, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$17,138 in Coal County to \$36,948 in Tulsa County. Ten counties in Oklahoma, all nonmetro, had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004.

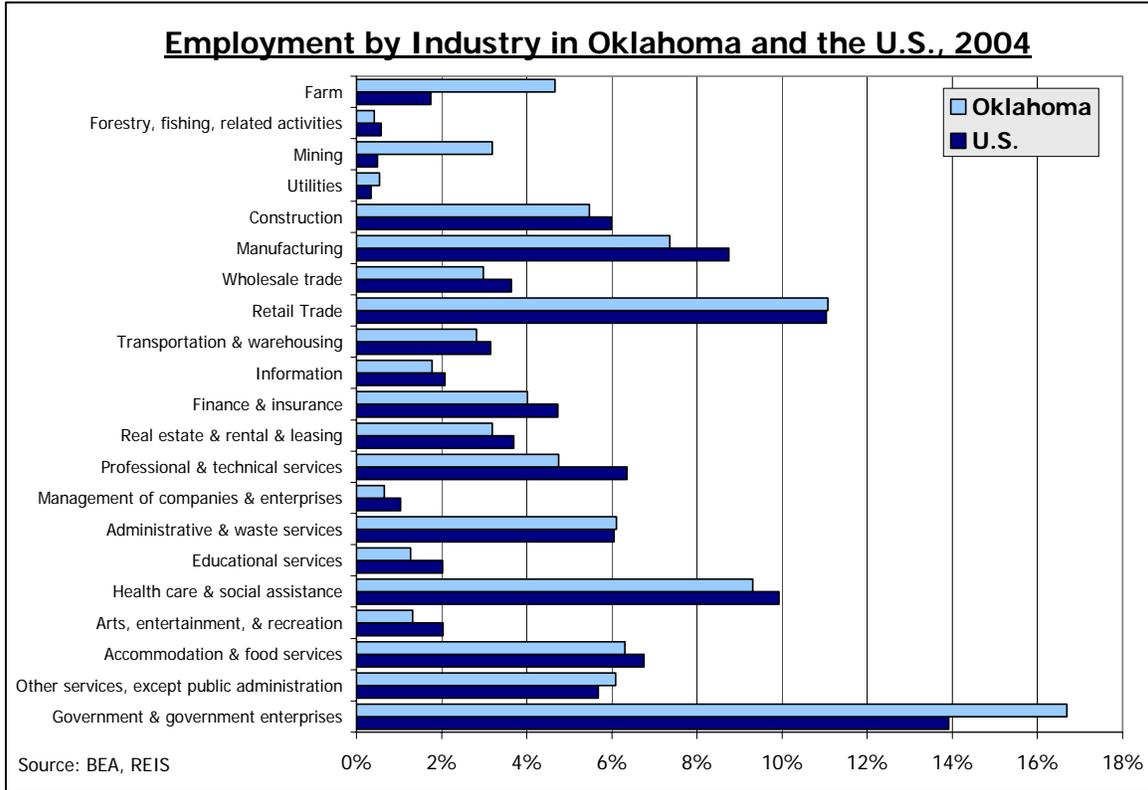


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In Oklahoma, 9 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties (all nonmetro), transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county.

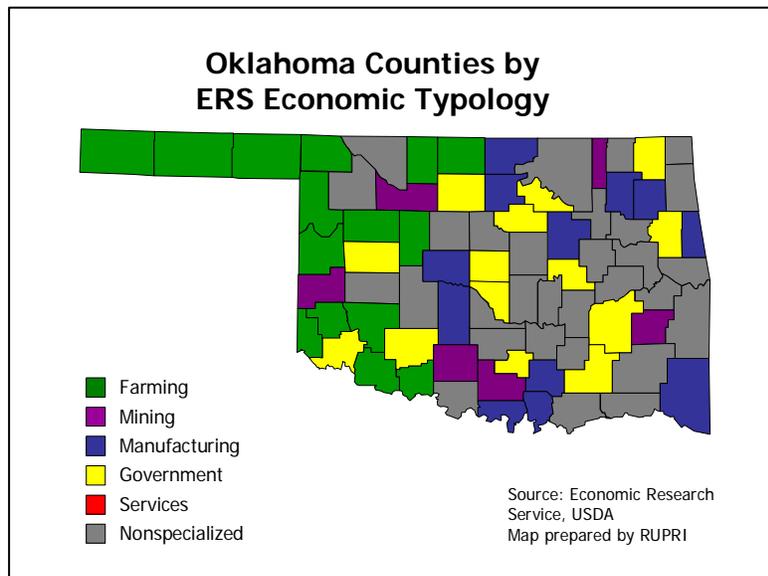


Employment

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in Oklahoma (16.7%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector in both Oklahoma (11.1%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

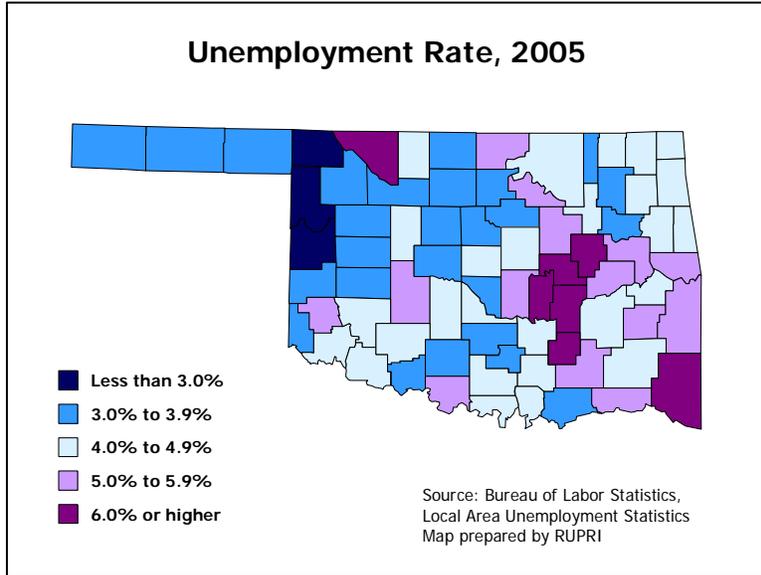


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Oklahoma counties by this typology, illustrating the diversity across the state.

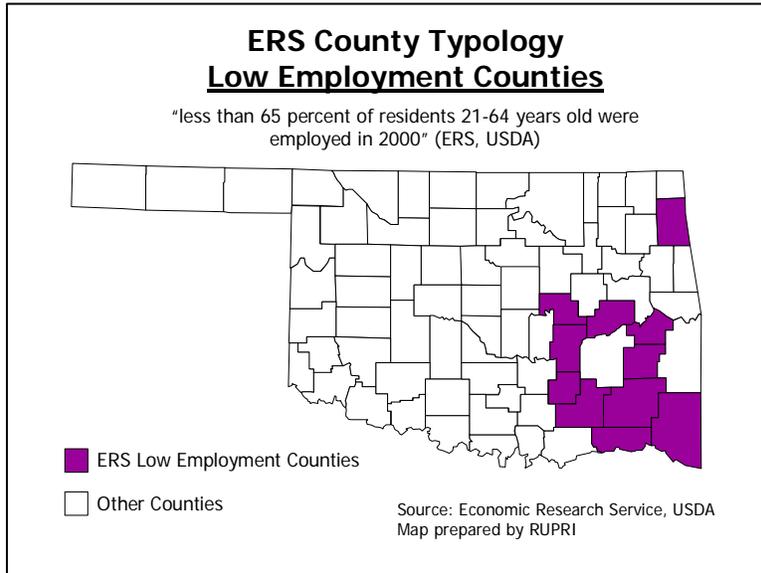


Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Oklahoma in 2005 was 4.4 percent, compared to 5.1 percent nationally. Within Oklahoma, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.7 percent in Roger Mills County to 6.9 percent in Okfuskee County.

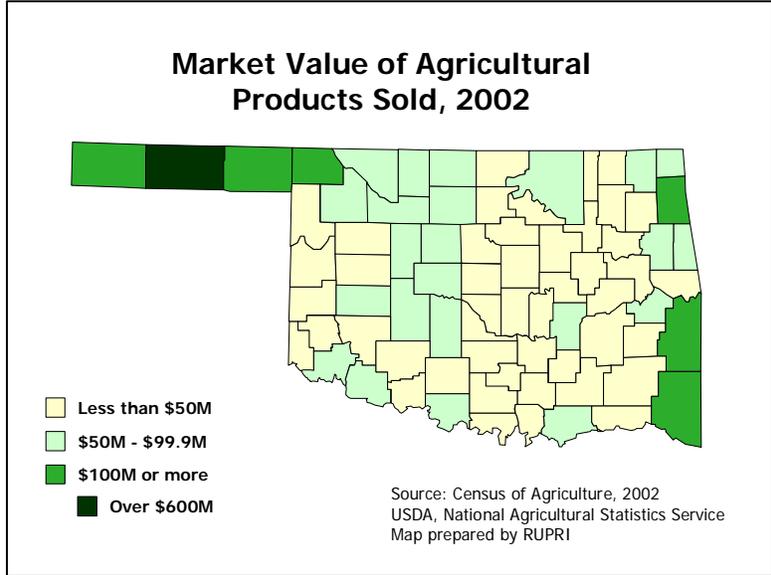


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In Oklahoma, 11 counties (all nonmetro) are classified as low employment counties.

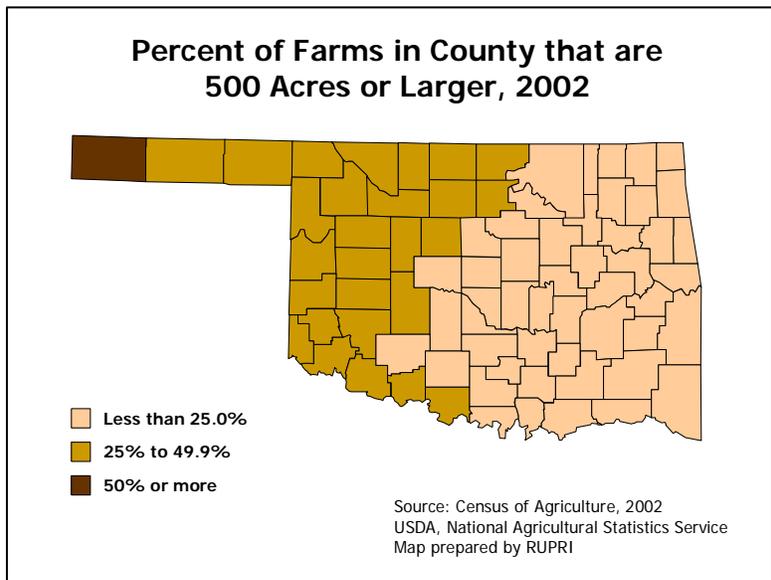


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in Oklahoma, and 15 counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on page 12). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 in Oklahoma counties. In 7 counties the value was over \$100 million, and in Texas County the value was \$662.5 million.



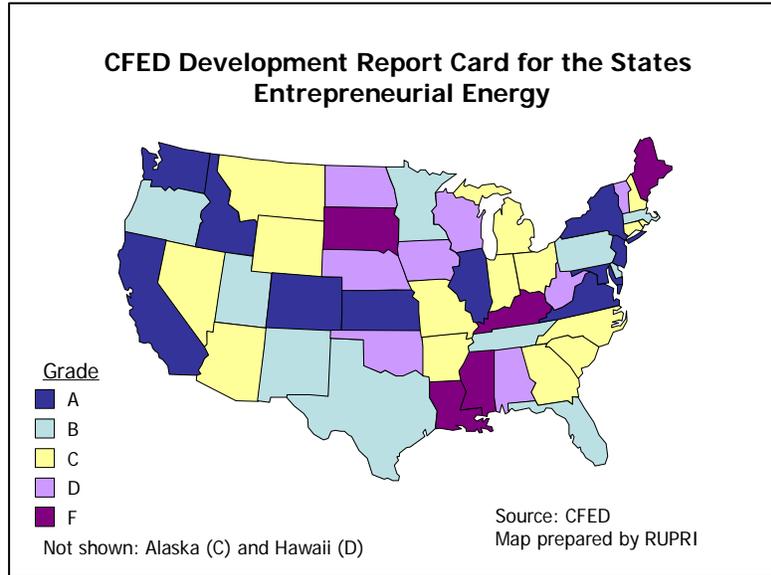
Average farm size in Oklahoma is 404 acres and 18 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger. In Cimarron County, over half of the farms are 500 acres or larger.



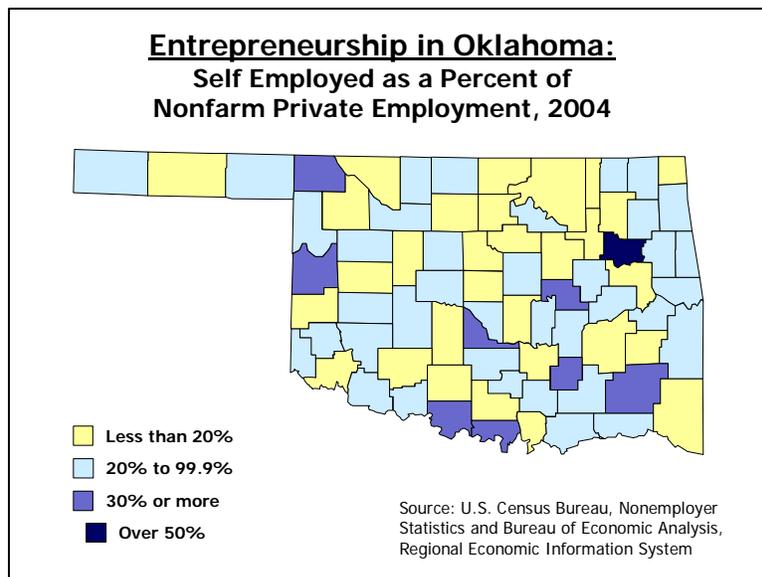
Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is an important component to economic development today. Unfortunately, data that allow us to measure entrepreneurial activity and trends is difficult to ascertain, particularly at the county level. The 2004 *CFED Development Report Card for the States* rates each state on its entrepreneurial energy, “evaluating the extent to which new firms are generated and whether they

are contributing to employment growth.” While this is a state-level ranking, it provides useful insight as to how a state is performing. Oklahoma’s ranking is “D”.

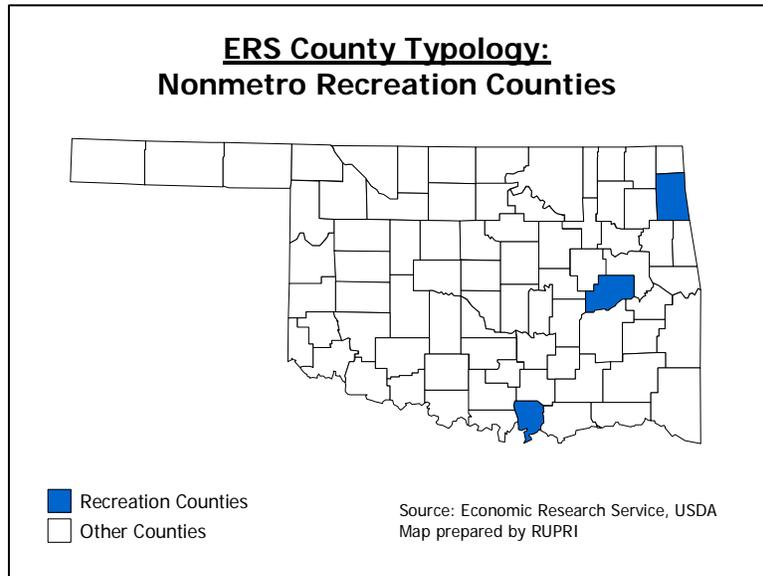


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



Nonmetro Recreation Counties

The Economic Research Service's classification of nonmetro recreation counties captures the recreational opportunities and development in many rural parts of the nation. The classification is based on a number of factors, including employment and income derived from recreation-related activities, seasonal housing units within the county, and receipts from hotels and motels. Nationally, 334 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties, and 3 are located in Oklahoma.



Data Sources and References

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

<http://www.bea.gov/ea/regional/reis/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm>

CFED Development Report Card for the States

<http://drc.cfed.org/>

Economic Research Service, USDA, 2004 County Typology

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/Typology/>

Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Designations of Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas and Populations

<http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

2002 Census of Agriculture

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp

Office of Management and Budget, Statistical Area Definitions and Guidance on Their Uses

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy05/b05-02.html>

RUPRI Community Information Resource Center Interactive Map Room

<http://circ.rupri.org/>

U.S. Census Bureau

Census 2000

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

Population Estimates

<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Classifications

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>

Nonemployer Statistics

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/nonemployer/>

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saibe/saibe.html>

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